

and that unquestionably was the dread of the devastation which accompanied the Burmese advance; but if the existing Government had been unpopular, all would have been at least indifferent at a change of masters, and some certainly would have intrigued with the enemy. But nothing of the kind occurred, and I even succeeded in inducing some who had been released, after falling into the enemy's hands, to return and act as spies on our behalf, at the risk of every thing which a Hindu (and these were Brahmuns) values more than life.

On the other hand, many of the inhabitants of Kachar disgusted and worn out by the oppressions of their native chiefs, did coalesce with the Burmans, thereby proving that their dread of that sanguinary people could be overcome by their sense of the intolerable character of the Government under which they were groaning, and that they had reached a point in endurance, at which any change appeared for the better.

Memorandum on the Silk Trade between Shikarpore and Khorassan, and on the produce of Indigo in Sind. By Lieut. J. POSTANS, Assistant Political Agent, Upper Sind.

The importation of raw silk from the north-west to Shikarpore is one of the most important branches of the import trade from that direction; the article appears to be of a superior description, and as I am not aware of its being known in the Bombay market, I have collected the following particulars to accompany samples.

The following are the descriptions of the raw silk, with the prices of each in the Shikarpore Bazar, import duty paid (at one rupee six annas per maund).

- No. 1. "*Kokanee*," from Bokhara (produced in Toorkistan) price 10* Shikarpore rupees per *assar*.
- No. 2. "*Toonee*," from Kerat (produced in Toorkistan) 13 Rs. 12 annas per *assar*.

* Silk raw and in thread, prepared, is weighed at the rate of $90\frac{1}{4}$ Shikarpore rupees, or 1 *assar*, or 88 Company's rupees last coinage. The Shikarpore rupee at present is worth $94\frac{3}{4}$ Company's per 100 Shikarpore, or $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent in favour of the former.

No. 3. "*Shal bafee*," from Kerat (produced in Toorkistan) 15 Rs. 10 annas per *assar*.

„ 4. "*Nawabee*," from Bokhara, do. 14 Rs. 12 annas per *assar*.

„ 5. "*Gheelanee*," from Kermare and Fezed, do. 9 Rs. per *assar*.

„ 6. "*Kaloocheer*," from Kerat do. 9 Rs. per *assar*.

The value of annual imports may be about 50,000 rupees, and the route is through the great pass of the Bolan; the traders are principally Affghauns, who visit Shikarpore with the annual Kaffillas from October to March, though much of the article is purchased by the Hindoo agents of the Shikarpore sowcars, who are to be found in all the important cities and marts of the north-west, (see Sir A. Burnes' report on the trade of Shikarpore.)

Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6 of the raw silks above enumerated, are prepared for weaving, and dyed at Shikarpore. The *Shal bafee* and *Nawabee*, Nos. 3 and 4, are manufactured at Roree, on the opposite bank of the Indus, into a silk fabric, known as "*Duryaee*," value at Roree, 7 annas per guz. The silk thread prepared at Shikarpore, and hereafter enumerated, principally finds a market at Khyrpore, Sukkur, Roree, Larkhana, Gundava, Bagh in Cutchee, and towards Lower Scindh, as far as Sehwan and Tattah, where it is manufactured into "*Loonghis*" of various descriptions, "*Gul-budduns*," and other fabrics used in the country. The raw material, or prepared thread, does not appear to enter into the export trade of Shikarpore, with the marts of the neighbouring countries.

List of prepared silk threads from the raw "*Kokanee*."

No. 1. "*Pestakee*," yellow, Gooljuleel, (Mettilat) dye, price 20 Rs. per *assar*.

„ 2. "*Chumunee*," light green, mixture of Indigo with the above; 20 Rs. per do.

„ 3. "*Subz*," dark green do do. do., 20 Rs. per do.

„ 4. "*Soormar*," Indigo do. 20. Rs. per do.

„ 5. "*Koombar*," orange, Koomba (safflower) dye do. 28 Rs. per do.

„ 6. "*Tillar*," deep yellow (light gold) Koombeera? dye do. 16 do.

„ 7. "*Koormis*," cochineal dye, crimson, do. 21 Rs. 12 annas per do.

„ 8. "*Ucho*" white, undyed do. 20 Rs. do.

List of prepared thread from the raw "*Toonee*".

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|---|--|
| 1. <i>Pistakee</i> , | } Same dyes
used as the
above, price
24 Rs. per
assar. |
| 2. <i>Chumunee</i> , | |
| 3. <i>Subz</i> , | |
| 4. <i>Ashmanee</i> (light blue Indigo) | |
| 5. <i>Achoo</i> , | |
| 6. Three shades of cochineal, Rs. 26-12 per seer. | |

The raw silks "*Gheilanee*" and "*Kuloochur*," are not in any general use, "*Kokanee*" and "*Toonee*," being the principal importations, and the most in use.

The expense of transmitting goods from Shikarpore to the sea, by water carriage, may be easily ascertained, as certain rates have been established by the British Government for freight by packet boats; thus, from Sukkur to Kurrachee Buncher, one Company's rupee per maund dead weight, or one rupee per cubic foot for light goods. The expense of transport from Shikarpore to Sukkur by the Scindh Canal, is $\frac{1}{4}$ rupee per maund, or 2 Rs. per camel, carrying 5 maunds; the export town duties to be paid at Shikarpore. Export duties again at Kurrachee on raw silk would be thus—

1st. Duties on purchasing in the bazar, and clearing the town of Shikarpore, as far as the *Scindh* Canal—Shikarpore rupees 16: 4: 0 per maund.

2nd. Export duty at Kurrachee about 5 Rs. per cent.

A calculation from the above may be pretty accurately formed of the price at which the article would come into the Bombay market; and as it will hereafter be to the interests of the native governments to modify many of the imports which may at present be considered vexatious and offensive upon trade, silk and other commodities from the north-west may, with the advantage of water carriage from Shikarpore to the presidency, enter considerably into the market of Bombay by the route of the Indus.

Memorandum on Indigo.

The important article of Indigo, for the production of which the Punjaub and countries bordering the Indus would appear to possess equal advantages with Bengal and the Delta of the Ganges, cannot fail to attract considerable attention, in connection with the trade of the former river, and will in all probability enter considerably into the return commodities to be looked for from those countries. The following is the amount of last year's crops for the Punjaub, Bhawalpore, and Khyrpore territories, with the present prices, on the spot, of the different descriptions.

In the *Punjaub* estimated quantity 17,700 maunds ; thus produced—

Districts.

1 Dera Ghazee Khan.	Mds.	3,000
2 Sooltan and Gungera.	„	3,000
3 Gullioon, Jetepore, Noorshera, and Soonwall, ..	„	3,500
4 Canals of Sirdarwar and Bahwalwar.	„	1,200
5 Mooltan and its districts.	„	5,000
6 Soonadur Mahamad Kot Luwah Bukhur.	„	2,000

In the Bhawalpore territories, 4,000

Districts.

1 Khanpore.	„	3,000
2 Ahmedpore.	„	1,000

In the Khyrpore territories, 2,000

Districts.

1 Meer Mobarick.	„	600
2 Meer Rustam.	„	300
3 Meer Alli Morad.	„	900
4 Various places towards Hyderabad.	„	200

The total may thus be estimated at about 24,000, of which three-fourths find a market in Khorassan, the remainder divided between the home consumption and exports to Muscat and Bombay.

The following is a list of prices at the several places where the article is grown (duties unpaid) at Dera Ghazee Khan, a mixture of five descriptions of Indigo, known as

Punjab.						Rs. 45 per maund.	
{	No. 2	...	...	...	...	50	”
	3	...	..	...	...	52	”
	4	...	...	...	...	55	”
	5 (best quality)	...	...	...	...	60	”
	6	...	...	...	...	54	”
Bhawulpore.							
{	1	...	...	...	...	56	”
	2	...	...	...	...	58	”
Kharpore.							
{	1	...	...	...	...	57	”
	2	...	...	...	...	58	”
	3	...	...	...	..	60	”
	4	...	...	...	...	55	”
	5	...	...	...	...	60*	”

Not having had the opportunity of inspecting the methods of cultivating and preparing the dye in these countries, I cannot offer any remarks or suggestions on their improvement, but there can be no doubt that there is plenty of room for the introduction of a superior system, as employed by the European growers of Bengal. One is evident, in the necessity of packing it in squares, and not in the present small pieces, whereby much waste appears to be occasioned.

The duties and expenses on the purchase and transmission of Indigo by the river Indus to Bombay may be thus estimated—

1st. In the Punjab, a duty on the purchase and clearing, of Rs. 4 per maund.

2nd. In the Bhawulpore territories the duty amounts to † Rs. 3 : 8 : 0

* The maund differs according to the country. Indigo in the Shikarpore market is weighed by the maund of 40 assars, each assar being equal to Shikarpore Rs. 83, or Company's Rupees 79 in weight.

† One-fourth of all Indigo purchased in the territories of Bhawulkhan, is from the Government share of produce, on which a duty of 10 Rs. per maund is levied, whilst the other three-fourths pay at the rate of 1 Rupee 8 annas per maund, making an average of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ Rupees for the *whole*, (ex-gra;—Thus, of 20 maunds purchased, 5 would pay Rs. 50, and the remainder 22 : 8 : 0, or about $3\frac{1}{2}$ Rs. for the whole.)

3rd. In the Khyrpore territories the duty amounts to R. 1 : 2, per md.

4th. Independent of the above, the transit duties are thus—

In the Punjaub, at Mittun Kote, Rs. 46 : 4, per boat load.

In the Bhawulpore territories, Rs. 30 ditto

In the Khyrpore territories none. All transit duties on the river through the Hyderabad and Khyrpore territories are cancelled under a "Rahdaree Purwannah" from the British authorities.

The expenses of water carriage to Bombay is calculated by the dealers at about two Rupees per maund from Mooltan, and as the duties levied at the former place are known, an estimate may be formed of the price at which Indigo from the countries bordering on the Indus may be brought into the Bombay market. In Shikarpore this article does not enter largely into the trade, the consumption being only about 100 maunds annually; it passes through Shikarpore, however, in transit to Khorassan by the route of the Bolan pass, but the greater quantity before alluded to, finds its way to Cabul, Bokhara, &c. by the route of the Khybur, or the Daman pass; the latter through the agency of the Lohana traders and their Kaffillas.

On the Historical Geography of Hindustan, and the origin of the Social State among the Hindus. By JAS. BIRD, Esq.

The state of India previous to the Mohammedan invasion, is a subject of perplexity; as the interested and fabulous narratives of sectaries present but a few isolated facts to guide us in forming an opinion of the original system of Hinduism, civil and religious.

Many, in conducting this investigation, have been more zealous in supporting the antiquity of the present Hindu social state, than in searching after historical truth; and, while unable to explain why the Sanscrit language enters so extensively into the provincial dialects, without granting that it was the primitive tongue, they have contended for the prevalent and unchangeable existence of Brahminical institutions.

In doing so they have overlooked the reasonable conclusion which, sanctioned by the well known revolutions of the world, admits the gradual advancement of Hinduism to its present perfection, and that it was a religion of proselytism little more than nine centuries ago. The known geographical distribution of tribes and nations tends to establish the just-